Indian Pilgrims to Katasraj

2682. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to states the steps taken by the Government to ensure the safety of Indian pilorims during their forth-coming visit to Katasraj shrine in Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): Indian pilgrims are allowed to visit the Katasraj shrin in Pakistan in terms of the Protocal on Visits to Religious Shrines signed between India and Pakistan in 1974. As the host Government, the Government of Pakistan are responsible for their security. Liaision Officers from the High Commission of India, Islamabad are invariably attached to groups of Indian pilgrima to render necessary assistance and to coordinate their welfare with the Pakistani authorities.

[*English*]

Podu Cultivation

2683. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribals in various parts on the country are involved in unscientific podu cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Governmnt to bring them out of podu cultuvation;

(d) the assistance provided to each Sate Government during 1991-92 in this reegard;

(e) whether the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has offered halp to disengage them podu cultivation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Podu cultivation is the local name of shifting cultivation in Andhra Pradesh. It is significantly practised in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghlaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Tripura & Aurnchal Pradesh and sporadically in Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka and Sikkim. This practice is generally condined to the trible communities.

(c) A Pilot Project for control of shifting cultivation with 100% Central assistance for settlement of 1300 familes with a total outlay of Rs. 146 lakhs was taken up during the 5th Five Year Plan. Based on its experience the scheme for control of shifting cultivation was launched during 1987-88 with 100% Central assistance to the State plan in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and all the States of North Eastern Region. Against the targated settlement of 25,000 families with an outlay of Rs. 75 crores, 26,532 families were identified for settlement and the scheme remained in operatin upto 1990-91. The scheme now stands transferred to the States w.e.f. 8th Plan.

(d) No Central assistance has been released during 1991-92.

(e) and (f). Two agreements for IFAD assistance one of SDR 9.25 million (equivalent $ 12 million) on 4.2.88 and another of SDR 14.05 million (equivalent $ 20 million) on 15.5.91 were signed for integrated development of tribals of Orissa & Andhra Pradesh respectively. The projects include the components of natural resources developmen, marketing, credit support, community and women development, health, education etc.